Inside UNLV

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**Greenspun School Reorganizes**

by Gian Galasii

The ongoing reorganization of the Hank Greenspun School of Communication will pave the way for future accreditation of UNLV's journalism program and give students enrolled in rhetorical studies and interpersonal communication greater freedom in the classes they choose, according to officials in the College of Urban Affairs.

This fall the school will be renamed the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies, and will include the units of print and broadcast journalism, public relations, advertising, and media theory and criticism. The programs in rhetorical, interpersonal, and intercultural communications will be housed in a new department called communication studies.

Martha Watson, dean of the College of Urban Affairs, proposed the reorganization last fall and subsequently gained unanimous support from all faculty members who will be affected by the change. The UCCSN Board of Regents voted in favor of the reorganization during its January meeting. Watson said the reorganization is a common evolution for most mature communications programs to undergo and will, ultimately, better serve faculty, research interests, as well as the professional goals of students.

"Several factors indicated that this was a good time to seek a reorganization," said Watson. "First, the faculty were struggling to design a curriculum that met the needs of too very different groups of students: those wanting a more professionally oriented degree and those interested in less applied areas. The current curriculum in the school divides almost exactly into divisions that correspond to the proposed split.

Second, the core curriculum committee had indicated that half the school was 'humanities' and the other half 'social sciences.' This division in their deliberations paralleled to a large extent the different areas of interest and the tracks in the existing curriculum.

Third, the new structure reflects the most common pattern in research one universities, because it recognizes the different foci of faculty in these areas. The new arrangement will also enable the school to consider pursuing accreditation, which will raise the professional profile of the school and may enhance the students' credentials."

Anthony Fargo, an assistant professor of

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Chinelo Nwosu, a visiting professor from Nigeria, conducts cancer research in the laboratory of UNLV chemistry professor Abiodun Elegbede. A Fulbright Scholar, Nwosu was matched with Elegbede when a Google search showed they had similar research interests.

**Visiting Fulbright Scholar Conducts Cancer Research**

by Cate Weeks

The tropical forest in Chinelo Nwosu's native Nigeria holds plants unknown to Western researchers but eaten every day by local people. Nwosu, a visiting Fulbright scholar, hopes that her research here on those plants will eventually lead to the identification of less toxic plant compounds that can be used for treating and/or preventing cancer.

As chance would have it, the Fulbright Scholars program matched Nwosu's research interests with another native Nigerian, UNLV chemistry professor Abiodun Elegbede. Fulbright program officer Jennifer Tkacz found Elegbede by doing a Google search for "nutrition, cancer, and Nigeria." The UNLV chemistry department's website was one of the first listed.

The Fulbright program, the U.S. government's flagship educational exchange, is benefiting both researchers.

**Expanding Cancer Research**

"First and foremost, the academic environment and resources here are allowing me to conduct research that I couldn't do in my homeland," said Nwosu, an assistant professor of biochemistry at the University of Port Harcourt in Rivers State, Nigeria. "I'm getting very good preliminary results."

Nwosu is using the equipment in Elegbede's lab and other facilities in the chemistry department to extract, characterize, and test chemical compounds from plant products used as spices or eaten cooked or raw in her homeland. These plant products are virtually unknown to researchers elsewhere.

"I have not been able to find research literature on most of the plants in the Western world, and we really don't know how they work in the body," she said.

She and Elegbede both believe that research on anti-carcinogenic compounds found naturally in edible plants could help them identify less toxic alternatives to current chemotherapy and radiation.

"Those methods kill cancer cells, but they also kill normal cells," Nwosu said. "I hope compounds from natural products can help us eliminate the cancer cells without harming normal cells."

**Benefitting UNLV**

Even though it meant sharing limited research space, Elegbede hasn't regretted his decision to become Nwosu's advisor in the Fulbright program. First, he said, his participation in the program is bringing international recognition to his specific research on natural products while at the same time enhancing UNLV's reputation and recognition. It is also helping expand the body of knowledge in the field, he said.

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Revising the Core Curriculum

by Carol C. Haerter
UNLV President

We have recently undertaken an effort to revise our core curriculum, the set of general education courses that we require all baccalaureate-level students to take. For those on campus who might be unfamiliar with the philosophy behind the core curriculum, I should note that it is an accepted practice in higher education that students, preferably in their first years of study, complete an array of courses that provides them with a solid academic foundation on which they can build with more specialized course work in the future. We believe that these initial basic courses, which cover such subjects as beginning English, history, science, and mathematics, will enable students to develop vital intellectual skills and to acquire a broad base of knowledge that will serve them not only throughout their formal education, but also throughout their lives.

Historically, I believe UNLV's core curriculum by and large achieved these ends; through the years, however, changes to the core were introduced that - though well-meaning - began to muddle its intent and limit its effectiveness. Exemptions to certain core courses were permitted in various colleges, as were substitutions of other classes for some defined core courses. In addition, the number of core curriculum credits steadily grew. Over time, the core became cumbersome for students to follow, challenging for advisors to navigate, and difficult (if not impossible) for administrators to defend.

Just as we began to recognize some of the difficulties the core presented, our accrediting body provided us with further impetus to revamp it. The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities recently recommended that we address three problem areas related to the core: the number of exemptions and substitutions permitted by colleges, the lack of consistency among colleges, and the deficiencies in assessment of student learning outcomes.

We were further motivated to revise the core by our commitment to our strategic planning goal #1 of creating a student-centered learning environment. Noel-Levitz, the consulting firm we have hired to guide our retention improvement efforts, recommended simplifying the core as well. The consultants pointed out that one consistent set of core courses, agreed upon and accepted by all UNLV colleges, would reduce student confusion and facilitate student transfers from one college to another. Additionally, it was clear that the transfer process within our own university was not our only concern. Any core curriculum changes we introduced would require coordination with other Southern Nevada UCCSN institutions to ease the transfer by students from those campuses to ours.

Thus, several compelling motives led us to request a revision of the core curriculum, and in early 2003 an 18-member task force, chaired by English professor Chris Hudgins, was appointed to pursue this endeavor. Composed of UNLV faculty, staff, and students, as well as representatives from The Community College of Southern Nevada and Nevada State College, the task force worked to create a new core curriculum that would better serve the needs of our students.

With more than three decades of service, Fred Albrecht is the longest serving professional or administrative staff member at UNLV. The vice president for alumni & community relations counts the construction of the Tam Alumni Center as his proudest achievement to date. He is pictured in the Alumni Amphitheater, which the UNLV Alumni Association donated to the campus during his tenure.

Albrecht Tackles Variety of Challenges Over 34 Years

by Diane Russell

What began as a temporary relocation to a university where he could take a shot at coaching, complete his master's degree, and explore job opportunities unexpectedly turned into a lifelong career for Fred Albrecht.

With 34 years service to the campus' longest serving professional or administrative staff employee.

Over the years he has worn several different hats - sometimes juggling more than one at a time - and today serves as vice president for alumni & community relations. The UNLV of today, with its 26,000 students and 80,000 alumni, is vastly different from the 6,000-student campus Albrecht found when he arrived in 1970 to serve as assistant basketball coach.

"After two days you knew everybody who worked here and called them all by their first names," the Ohio native said. "It was a very friendly atmosphere, very collegial. It was something like being a settler on the frontier. There were lots of unknowns, but the challenges were accepted by everybody."

One challenge: with money short, employees often filled multiple roles. When the university began its first alumni relations program in 1973, for instance, Albrecht, who by then was himself a UNLV alum with a master's degree in education, landed the job. But it came with the proviso that he coach the tennis team as well. For the next 10 years, he volleyed between the two.

Creating an Alumni Program

Starting the alumni program was a real challenge, he recalled. He pulled together a volunteer alumni board and set to work. At the first meeting, the group's checking account was $5 in the red. Albrecht and a board member each chipped in $5 so that the group could post a positive cash flow.

Then he set about tracking down alumni and developing a mailing list. One of the more innovative ideas came from then-Las Vegas Municipal Judge Seymore Brown who suggested checking the City Hall records for alumni who might have had traffic tickets in recent years. "We picked up 400 to 500 addresses that way," Albrecht said with a laugh.

The dual jobs did have some benefits. For example, when Albrecht would travel to an out-of-town tennis match, he invited alumni from the area, thus providing the first alumni programming outside Nevada.

Always a Rebel

In 1983, he stopped coaching to take on yet another assignment — overseeing athletic fundraising at a time when UNLV was moving its basketball games from the Las Vegas Convention Center to the new Thomas & Mack Center. What was supposed to be a one-year assignment lasted five. Albrecht said one of his accomplishments was successfully lobbying for students and faculty to have designated sections where they could purchase good seats at reasonable prices — something that had not been done before.

Albrecht's involvement with athletics has continued periodically. Twice he served as interim athletic director — most recently preceding last year's hiring of current A.D. Mike Hamrick. Although he long ago decided against pursuing coaching full time because, he explained, coaches are not sufficiently in charge of their own professional destiny, he credits his involvement in athletics with much of his success.

"I look at sports very favorably," said Albrecht, who earned his bachelor's degree on an athletic scholarship at Kent State University. "It taught me teamwork. It taught me how to deal with adversity. When the rug is pulled out from beneath you or you get knocked off your feet, you get up and keep on going."

Those lessons, he said, proved invaluable when he was diagnosed with neck cancer in 2001. The initial prognosis was bleak. He was told that on a scale of one to four, four was the worst stage of cancer. He, doctors told him, was at four plus. Surgery to remove tumors led to a serious blood-clotting problem that...
Body Mapping Class Helps Performers Chart Healthier Course

by Diane Russell

After listening to a brief performance by a guitar player, music professor Stephen Caplan advises the student to "find the motion that goes with the emotion and let the strings find the position for you."

Later, using a model skeleton to demonstrate his point, he discusses proper positioning of the arm with a student flutist.

Such are the observations made during a session of Caplan's new body mapping course – a class that encourages performers to be aware of how they are moving their bodies when they play their instruments, sing, or dance. The idea is to make them think about something they often do automatically – and in ways that eventually can lead to serious injury.

This new class combines elements of anatomy and physiology with performance - something Caplan said is unheard of in the music world where studies almost always concentrate on music theory, technique, and performance.

Yet, Caplan said, statistics indicate that ignoring anatomy and physiology can have damaging consequences. One study indicates that as many as 40 percent of musicians sustain significant injury during their careers, he noted. In many cases the injuries are so severe that it means cutting back on – or even ending – their performing careers. Many of those injuries are related to the frequent repetition of certain moves – for instance always holding the arm, wrist, and fingers the same way when drawing the bow across the violin strings.

And, all types of performers, not just those who play instruments, are subject to the injuries that can come from incorrect movement, he said. Of the 15 students enrolled in his class, 13 report already experiencing injury or pain.

Caplan, who is offering the body mapping course for the first time this semester, spent the fall studying with body mapping pioneer Barbara Conable in Oregon while on faculty development leave. A Stimulation, Implementation, Transition and Enhancement (SITE) grant from UNLV along with a Jackpot grant from the Nevada Arts Council helped fund his studies. Soon, Caplan hopes to become the first certified body-mapping instructor in the Southwest.

But before Caplan could begin studying how other performers use their bodies both correctly and incorrectly, he had to be observed himself. "Barbara wanted to make sure that I was using my body correctly. That way I as a performer can model correct movement for my students."

"The feedback I received from her was extremely useful," said Caplan, who has been playing the oboe for 32 years. "I found something helpful that brought me to a new level as a performer and to a new level as a teacher. I've studied with some of the best oboe teachers in the world and no one has ever given me information like this before.

It is that same kind of transforming information that he is trying to provide his students. At the start of the semester, each student was asked to draw his own body map – a diagram of how he thinks his body is put together, paying special attention to the bones. Inevitably the first body maps contain errors, Caplan said.

"We've found that people, including performers, move their bodies based on their perceptions of how they think their body is put together rather than on how it really is put together," he said. "So sometimes they are moving in the wrong ways."

While Caplan's course is offered through the music department, he encourages students from other departments, such as dance and theatre, to take it as well. Any performer can benefit from the course because movement is part of any performance, whether it's the obvious movement of a dancer pirouetting across the stage or the more subtle motion of an opera singer projecting her voice to the back of the concert hall.

The course alternates between a lecture one week and performances by two or three students the next week. During the performance classes, Caplan and the other students help the performers put into action the material covered in the previous week's lecture.

"It's a learning experience for all of us – and one I hope will aid us all in being better performers."

Inside UNLV

Harter

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force set about examining various ways to reconfigure the core in an effort to address the aforementioned concerns.

Although I need not detail here the intricacies of the new core – course listings and additional information will be available in the fall catalog – I can say that the outcome was an effective blend of compromise and rigor that will serve the campus well. The task force offered several recommendations, all of which were accepted, and the new core curriculum is expected to be implemented in fall 2004. I would like to share with you just a few of the key recommendations made by the task force.

Perhaps the most important of the group's recommendations was its suggestion that the core be reduced by approximately 10 credits. This reduction will provide the colleges with greater latitude in defining their own major requirements; students will still be required to complete these credits but can acquire them in courses defined as necessary by their colleges and departments. An additional benefit of this reduction is that it will help students more clearly and easily identify the core curriculum.

The task force also recognized the need to address concerns about transfers from the Community College of Southern Nevada and from Nevada State College. As a result, appropriate transfer agreements are being produced with the goal of providing a seamless two-plus-two experience for transfer students. Also, an ad hoc articulation committee – created to address concerns about CCSN and NSC transfers – will become a standing committee under the auspices of the chancellor's office to ensure ongoing open communication about this issue. The task force also recommended that a general education director be hired to continue refining the core and to provide oversight of core curriculum matters. Finally, efforts are under way to begin forging assessment tools that will measure student learning outcomes from several core curriculum courses.

I applaud these changes and appreciate the work of the task force; developing a more tightly focused core in a relatively short period of time – and building the consensus necessary to accomplish this endeavor – was no small feat. Although revision of the core will be an ongoing process, these initial steps will certainly advance the effort and help us meet several significant goals, not the least of which is the provision of a common intellectual experience for all of our students.
The College of Fine Arts continues to grow at a rapid pace. Students are enrolling in our art, architecture, dance, film, music, and theatre programs at a rate that makes us one of the fastest growing fine arts colleges in the country. The past year has been one of excitement and change, and it has set the tone for even greater things to come.

We successfully launched the inaugural Nevada Entertainer/Artist Hall of Fame at UNLV on Sept. 13 at Artemus Ham Concert Hall. Our first inductee is the three time Oscar award winning director George Sidney. A true renaissance man, George Sidney worked with and directed actors in the Golden Age of Hollywood.

We are pleased to welcome Chuck O'Conner as the new chair of the department of theatre. Chuck comes to UNLV from the University of Nebraska where he was the director of film and new media. Chuck brings a wealth of experience in computer simulation and design for virtual reality environments to the department of theatre. He has vast experience as an artistic director and assistant artistic director for television and was the recipient of a CableACE Award for outstanding art direction. In addition, his scenic design credits include the Utah Shakespearean Festival, Persepolis, Twelfth Night, Henry V, King John, A Midsummer Night's Dream. We are looking forward to his helping the department of theatre grow and become a leader regionally and nationally.

Our students continue to inspire great pride. Once again, they participated in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, thanks in part to a wonderful gift from our good friend Bernice Fischer. Students in the School of Architecture won first place in a national design competition held in Chicago, and two landscape architecture students won two national American Society of Landscape Architects awards. This is the fourth consecutive year that UNLV students have won national awards.

The Performing Arts Center 2003-04 season, "A Season of Colors," has welcomed legendary performer Ben Vereen, the Harlem Boys Choir, and The Chieftans, and our music students had the extraordinary opportunity to play with multi-Grammy-award-winning composer and musician Marvin Hamlish in a special concert. The 2004-05 season, "Stars at the Center," will feature the best in entertainment with notable stars, including Itzhak Perlman, Tommy Tune, Linda Eder, the Vienna Boys Choir, and Bobby McFerrin. Our numerous lecture series, including the KJub Architecture lecture series, art department lecture series, and Celebrity Speaker series, have gained a lot of attention in recent months and have attracted some of the biggest names in their respective fields. The stellar productions of our music, dance, and theatre programs have received high praise.

Finally, we would like to thank the campus community which continues to support the college's artistic endeavors, and which has helped us grow into the future.

News from the College's Desk
by Jeffrey Koep, College of Fine Arts

Business
Debra March, director of the Lied Institute for Real Estate Studies, has been appointed by Provost Anderson Planning Commission. Appointed by the Henderson City Council, the Planning Commission addresses planning and zoning concerns brought to the city, then makes recommendations to the City Council.

The Nevada Small Business Development Center hosted the 2004 Small Business Loan Expo in March in conjunction with the Small Business Administration (SBA). The free event provided a one-stop-shop for SBA-approved lenders, networking opportunities with lending institutions, access to CPAs and attorneys on business related issues, and numerous other free resources.

The Nevada Small Business Development Center also is hosting the second annual National Signage Research Symposium 2004 Workshop in the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla., April 13-15. The theme of this year's event is "Toward a Best Practices Manual About Commercial and Political Place-Based Speech Regulations." Speakers will explore many issues associated with signage, including economic health and attractive streetscapes.

Education
The college is responding to predictions that there will be critical shortages of school administrators in the next five to 10 years. The executive leadership doctoral program in the department of education leadership is one program designed to develop the next generation of educational leaders. The curriculum and program emphasize problem-based learning. Students, who are moving through the program as a cohort unit, include administrators from the Clark County School District (CCSD) and from rural districts in Nevada and Utah.

The program's current cohort group visited Washington, D.C., for a five-day education policy seminar in March. Briefings on federal education legislation and policies were held with analysts from a variety of agencies, including the American Federation of Teachers, American Association of School Administrators, Congressional Research Service, and U.S. Department of Education. Students also attended a session of the Council of Great City Schools, which is currently chaired by CCSD Superintendent Carlos Garcia. Sen. John Ensign's office arranged a VIP tour of the White House and provided gallery passes for the realization debate regarding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Experiences like this are essential in relating theory to practice and help students become better-informed administrators on policy reform issues such as standards and accountability.

Engineering
The college announces its 2003-04 advisory board officers and committee chairs: Board Chair Stephen George, independent consultant; Board Vice Chair Todd Kenner, PBS&J; Entertainment Engineering Committee Chair Alex Marquez, Intel; Entrepreneurship Committee Chair Judi Dohn, J.A. Dohn & Associates; Nomination Committee Chair Frank Tussing, Nevada Alliance; Public Sector Committee Chair Matt Davis, Nevada Power; Senior Design Committee Chair Fred Cox, Emulex Corp.; Science, Engineering and Technology Building Committee Chair Roger Pelton, Martin and Pelton; and State and Federal Chair Troy Wake, Nevada Alliance.

The Transportation Research Center has received $1 million in research funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The School of Computer Science launched its Center for Cybermedia Research in December. The college has acquired $250,000 in new machinery, including an advanced turning center (similar to a lathe) and a rapid prototyping machine, which converts three-dimensional drawings into plastic models. The prototyping machine allows for shapes that would be difficult to manufacture—a propeller, for instance—to be created quickly and easily.

Health Sciences
Excitement is developing as the School of Dental Medicine nears the final stages of renovation and construction for its new state-of-the-art facility. As the building phase approaches completion and equipment is being installed, faculty, staff, and students are organizing for a move to the Shadow Lane campus.

In preparation for the opening and for the beginning of patient care delivery within the facility, potential patients are being screened at the three UNLV Community Dental Services Clinics as well as in the mobile dental van on the UNLV campus. Campus screenings are conducted on Friday afternoons.

On another note, the admissions process for the entering dental class of 2008 is under way as students are being selected for acceptance from a pool of more than 1,700 applicants. An outstanding group of new students is taking shape, and a welcome weekend is planned in early June.

Current students were ably represented at a recent meeting of the American Dental Education Association in Seattle. Three second-year students presented an outstanding scientific poster outlining an innovative curricular design and instructional method for the first-year course in head and neck anatomy. The presentation was highly acclaimed by attendees representing academic dentistry nationally and internationally and is another example of the unique model being created for academic dentistry by the UNLV School of Dental Medicine.

Honors
The college is cooperating with several academic units to establish and jointly sponsor a pilot summer enrichment program for academically talented students in Clark County. Similar to programs at a number of prestigious universities, including Duke University's Talent Identification Program, the Summer Advanced Gifted Enrichment (SAGE) Academy will help attract top students to the college in stimulating academic experiences and introducing them to the excitement of research and university-level thinking.

Honors is working with the colleges of Education and Liberal Arts, the Division of Educational Outreach, the Las Vegas World Affairs Council, and other agencies to implement this program. Daniel Villaneuva from the College of Liberal Arts, who has taught in the Duke program, is developing UNLV's program.

This summer, gifted students will participate in three-week nonresidential, intensive summer courses taught by UNLV faculty members. Participants will...
earn from one to three Honors College credits. Plans call for the program to expand its offerings in future summers. The SAGE Academy promises to enhance UNLV's reputation among talented local students and to help nourish respect for higher education in Nevada.

Hotel

This year, the college welcomes four faculty members from Asia – two from Macao and two from Korea. As their part of the world opens up to more types of gaming, these faculty members, who are at UNLV only temporarily, will need to know how to instruct students in this field. Davis Fong and Bernadette Ozorio, both from Macao, are here for one semester. Jinny Woo, a native of Korea, is here for a year. Yong Kwan Kim will spend three semesters at UNLV before he returns to Korea.

Fong and Ozorio said they find the differences between UNLV and the University of Macao quite interesting. "We have noticed that the students attending UNLV seem to be more mature and participative than those in Macao," said Davis. "At the University of Macao, teaching is mostly done in English rather than the mother tongue of Cantonesian, so students tend to be less involved."

They are amazed at the number of guest speakers provided by the Hotel College. "In Macao, it is quite difficult to invite guest speakers," said Ozorio. "We may be able to invite one for one semester but would definitely not be able to have five guest lecturers for one course in one semester."

The two faculty members noted that American universities have more "open" campuses. "Chinese universities are like small communities," said Davis. "Inside the giant campus, one is likely to find – in addition to lecture halls, libraries, and offices – primary and secondary schools, clubs for the elderly, hostels, and health-care centers."

Law

The law school looks forward to welcoming at least one new tenure-track faculty member this fall. The newest associate professor will be Tuan Samahon, who is currently serving as a judicial law clerk for a former Boyd School of Law colleague, Jay Bybee, now an appellate judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Samahon received his J.D. cum laude in 2000 from Georgetown University Law Center, where he was a John M. Olin Law & Economics Fellow and a Humane Studies Fellow, and served on the editorial board of Law & Policy in International Business. Prior to clerking for Bybee, he clerked for a federal district judge in Virginia and then spent several years in private practice with the law firm of Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C. There he specialized in international trade and international business transactions. He graduated cum laude from BYU in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy.

Samahon's teaching and research interests include international trade, international business transactions, public international law, immigration law, and legislation. He will start his career at Boyd teaching civil procedure in the first-year program and international business transactions to advanced students.

Liberal Arts

In May, the Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN) will celebrate its fifth anniversary. The institute "stimulates, coordinates, and communicates research on women and girls" throughout the state. Two examples of this work are the recent partnerships that WRIN has formed with other national entities.

The National Education for Women's Leadership stimulates interest in civic activity and participation in community life for college women. Based on the award-winning and innovative program begun by Rutgers University, this program provides Nevada students with unsurpassed exposure to leaders from civic organizations, business, politics, and education. Last June, 25 diverse students from the state's community colleges and universities attended the first session of this program. Plans are well under way for the second institute this June.

A second partnership has been established with the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington, D.C., and with the Nevada Women's Fund on their respective Status of Women in the States studies. WRIN will facilitate the dissemination of the reports produced from these studies over the summer and in the fall. The opportunity to work on both studies offers students and faculty new possibilities for research.

Libraries

University Libraries has several events planned for April 19-23, which is designated as both National Library Week and as UNLV's Academic Recognition Week. On April 19, the subject librarians will host an informal forum for graduate students, giving them the chance to meet library staff with expertise in their disciplines and to become familiar with key resources. A ceremony marking the acquisition of the Libraries’ millionth volume will be held in the special collections area on April 20.

At 3:30 p.m. April 21 in the Lied Library's Amargosa Room, the Libraries will honor faculty and staff who have authored books during 2003. President Carol C. Harker and Kenneth Marks, dean of libraries, will make brief remarks, and books by the recognized authors will be on display. Faculty, staff, and students are invited to join the festivities. As these two celebratory weeks converge, University Libraries is pleased to recognize the milestones of the campus community.

Sciences

The college will initiate a program of aggressive undergraduate advising for freshmen this fall in order to increase student success within the college. Academic progress in science courses will be monitored for first-semester freshmen, problem areas identified, and appropriate counseling and/or tutoring initiated. This program will include the addition of a second professional advisor in the college's advising center and the use of student undergraduate peer advisers. The college also will begin using a database/server to provide up-to-date information for students, faculty, and college departmental staff.

The college welcomes Christopher Smith, a graduate student in the College of Education, who is taking over the responsibility of outreach coordinator. He will coordinate the Southern Nevada Regional Science and Engineering Fair hosted by UNLV. More than 400 elementary- and middle-school students from Southern Nevada are expected to participate in the event, which will take place this spring.

Urban Affairs

The Center for Urban Partnerships (CUP) held a highly successful, well-attended open house breakfast recently. Dean Martha Watson and CUP director Ramona Denby welcomed 175 community leaders
Spotlight

ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

David Emerson (Emeritus, Chemistry), Spencer Steinberg (Chemistry), and graduate Yu Zhang had their article, “ Destruction of Cyanide in Water Using N-Chlorinated Secondary Sulfonamide-Substituted Macroporous Poly(styrene-co-divinylbenzene),” published in Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Research.

Joanne Goodwin (History) recently was appointed to the National Advisory Board for the Status of Women and Girls in the States. The Institute for Women’s Policy Research, located in Washington, D.C., made the appointment. That organization produces reports on each of the 50 states. The report on Nevada will be published this fall.

Todd Jones (Philosophy) had his article “The Failure of the Best Arguments Against Social Reduction (and What That Failure Doesn’t Mean)” published in the most recent issue of the Southern Journal of Philosophy.

Timothy Erwin (English) recently was installed as president of the Samuel Johnson Society of Southern California. Max Novak (Emeritus, English, UCLA) nominated Erwin, and Loren Rothschild presented him with the Johnson medal. Erwin is a lifelong student of Johnson’s Lives of the Poets. The introduction to his 1988 edition of The Life of Mr. Richard Savage has recently been reprinted in Gale’s reference series Literature Criticism from 1400-1800.

Andy Nazarechuk (Tourism & Convention Administration) appeared on the October cover of China’s Hotel Expert magazine. He has been writing a series of articles on the tourism and hotel industry for the magazine, which is distributed to more than 5,000 hotels throughout China.

James Cizdziel (Harry Reid Center) published a paper titled “Mercury Concentrations in Groundwater Collected from Wells on and Near the Nevada Test Site.” It appeared in the January issue of the Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology.

John Massengale (Kinesiology) recently presented a paper titled “Using Waivers as Educational Tools in Physical Activity Programs” at the annual meeting of the Southwest District of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, which was held at Santa Ana, N.M.

Christa Bedford (Campus Housing) was selected Classified Staff Council Employee of the Month for January. An administrative assistant II, she has been a classified employee at UNLV since October 2000. She handles student-housing accounts for approximately 1,500 residents — processing statements, payments, and changes in meal plans and room assignments. A former student worker in both the School of Social Work and the criminal justice department, she received her bachelor’s degree in psychology in December.

Evelyn Gajowski (English) has published a book, Revisions of Shakespeare: Essays in Honor of Robert Ormstein, a collection of essays by Shakespeare scholars of international renown. Her introductory essay on the state of contemporary Shakespeare studies and her essay on Cymbeline are included in the collection. She also participated in the annual convention of the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association in Missoula, Mont., where she delivered a paper, participated in a round table, chaired a session, and mentored two undergraduate research award recipients in delivering papers.


Margaret Gray Towne (Philosophy) recently had her book, Honest to Genetic: A Biblical and Scientific Challenge to Creationism published by PublishAmerica. The book integrates the biblical creation accounts with modern evolutionary theory and targets a broad audience, covering both the scientific and theological dimensions of this subject which continues to erupt in the culture from courtroom to classroom to living room. Foundations in critical thinking and a historic overview of this subject are included. The book maintains that conflict need not exist between these disciplines if the biblical and scientific accounts are appropriately interpreted.

All UNLV faculty, classified staff, and professional staff members are encouraged to submit items to the “Spotlight on Accomplishments” section of Inside UNLV. Items should be no more than 75 words in length. Please submit via e-mail to inside.unlv@ccmail.nevada.edu.

Fulbright

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UNLV chemistry professor Abiodun Elegbede, left, consults with visiting Fulbright scholar Chinelo Nwosu in his campus lab. The pair are conducting cancer research involving plant compounds.

“Chinelo’s coming here has given me the opportunity to train somebody who will continue the work in this area,” he said.

“The support and encouragement of the department of chemistry, dean, College of Sciences, and the UNLV administration in facilitating the opportunity to mentor this Fulbright scholar is very much appreciated,” Elegbede said. “We hope that future collaborations will help us build on each other’s work.”

Nwosu’s presence has also benefited UNLV students. In addition to helping undergraduate students working in Elegbede’s lab, she has guest lectured in classes and helped establish new lab procedures.

As her tenure as a visiting scholar comes to an end, Nwosu is looking forward to returning to Nigeria, where she has four children, ages 2 to 17.

“The experience here has been excellent and rewarding all around,” she said. .

“The program is a wonderful way for faculty and students to enrich their cultural knowledge of other nations, build relationships, and also advance their own academic careers. The only difficulty I’ve experienced is missing my family.”

Colleges

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and representatives from local and state government and non-profit agencies interested in building community alliances and developing future joint research opportunities with UNLV.

Several CUP advisory board members, including Clark County Manager Thom Reilly and Susie Crum, chief operating officer of Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center, discussed pressing community issues.

UNLV counseling department faculty Patricia Markos, the department’s graduate coordinator, and Larry Ashley, addictions specialist and undergraduate coordinator, provided an overview of ongoing CUP research projects.

“We have been inundated with requests to partner with the university for the benefit of the community, which was ideally the ultimate goal of the open house,” said Heather Bruton, community outreach coordinator for CUP. “It was a wonderful chance for us to make new connections in the community and for the community to put a face to the name: Center for Urban Partnerships.”

Founded in 1996, CUP addresses critical urban topics in Southern Nevada. In addition to conducting applied research, the center strives to unite the expertise of faculty with the experience and needs of the community by providing resources such as grant and contract writing, program evaluation and development, and policy planning and needs assessments.
Access Grid Fosters Long-Distance Research

by Gian Gaissai

New state-of-the-art communication technology installed on campus is providing UNLV faculty with unprecedented access to their colleagues around the country and the world, making long-distance collaborative teaching and research significantly more efficient.

Located in the Lied Library and the National Supercomputing Center for Energy and the Environment (NSCEE), two new rooms, or access grid nodes, have been equipped with advanced audio, video, and high-speed network components that facilitate collaboration between remote locations. These nodes, which are tapped into the high-speed computer network called Abilene, are best used to support large group-to-group interactions, including large-scale distributed meetings, collaborative work sessions, seminars, lectures, tutorials, and training.

The rooms contain a variety of equipment, including cameras, microphones, and projectors that can be manipulated through a console to help participants better interact with remote users.

Lori Temple, associate provost for information technology, said the access grid will both open up the world of collaborative research and serve as an efficient alternative when researchers cannot be in the same physical location.

“Faculty can certainly do a lot by e-mail and a lot by sharing data sources, but what they really want to do is talk to their colleagues in real time, preferably from across a table,” said Temple. “The Access Grid is an attractive alternative to face-to-face meetings.”

UNLV has been connecting to the Abilene network for a few years already, but it wasn’t until this past fall that an access grid node was established on campus. Since its initial debut at the NSCEE, the access grid has been used for research by the Advanced Computing in Environmental Sciences group and in a joint project between the NSCEE and its counterpart at the University of New Mexico. This spring, a larger access grid node opened in the Eureka Room of the Lied Library and is now available for faculty use.

Don Diener, assistant provost for information technology, said faculty likely will be impressed with the new opportunities the technology can offer.

“This access grid allows faculty in their teaching roles to collaborate with colleagues on other campuses and bring their classes together in ways that haven’t been possible before,” he said. “Part of the thought process behind the creation of the grid was to mimic the experience of being together in the same room.”

The Abilene network, over which the Access Grid runs, is part of the Internet2 consortium, a group of more than 200 universities working in partnership with industry and government to develop and deploy advanced network applications and technologies. The network allows member institutions such as UNLV to transmit data 15,000 times faster than computers running over the commodities Internet.

To learn more about the Access Grid nodes and Internet2, visit www.unlv.edu/infotech/Internet2.

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Doctors said easily could have killed him. “Right there I felt I got my second chance,” he said. “When the blood clots didn’t kill me I took that as a message that I was going to be able to beat the cancer.”

Now, he said, despite having lost most of his taste buds and saliva glands, he may feel the best he ever has, in part because of a more health-conscious lifestyle.

He regularly speaks with others facing neck and throat cancer. “I tell them, ‘If I can beat it, you can beat it. Your life may change somewhat, but there’s no reason you can’t go back and do what you did before. You’ve just got to have faith.’”

Asked what his proudest accomplishment at UNLV has been to date, Albrecht responded, “I’m really proud of the Tarn Alumni Center. We built this $3 million building at a time when a feasibility study said we were years away from being able build it. According to the study, we weren’t even going to be able to raise $1 million.”

But Albrecht and the alumni board raised $1.8 million in cash. The rest of the $3 million came in donated labor and materials — with Albrecht negotiating many of the donations himself. “A lot of the deals were done on a handshake. The university showed a lot of faith in me to let me have that flexibility.”

Because of those unusual arrangements, Albrecht had to spend a lot of time at the construction site coordinating the schedules of which donor needed to send which supplies or which crews at what time. He spent about seven hours a day on site, something he said wouldn’t have been possible without a dedicated alumni board that agreed to handle many of the day-to-day functions of the association for him.

UNLV still faces many challenges as it strives to continue improving as both a teaching and a research university at a time when dollars are tight, Albrecht acknowledged, but said he is looking forward to helping meet those challenges.

“As long as I feel that I’m contributing to UNLV and helping to make it better, I’ll be excited about staying here.”

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Communication who is part of the journalism faculty said, “It became clear that we had outgrown our current structure. Part of the problem with trying to teach too many disciplines at once is that you’re essentially trying to serve too many masters. “This is going to be really good for our students,” he said. “It gives us the opportunity to sharpen our focus on what we teach, which will ultimately help our students sharpen their focus as well.”

The current structure of the school made writing a proposal for accreditation unduly complicated, if not impossible, according to David Henry, current director of the Greenspun School. He said the reorganization provides an opportunity to pursue the accreditation of journalism more efficiently and further define how the other units will grow to meet future demands.

“For journalism and media students, accreditation is clearly a very important potential benefit,” said Henry. “But for communication studies, which currently has no accrediting body, we have an opportunity to develop a narrow but potentially deep function in public discourse and strengthen our link to the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in public affairs.”

A search currently is under way for a director of the new Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies. Henry will chair the new communication program in public affairs.”
Wright Hall

Construction on John S. Wright Hall, home to many departments from the College of Liberal Arts, moves toward a projected November completion. The new Wright Hall consists of three buildings totaling 120,000 square feet. The only portion of the original Wright Hall left standing is the old office wing, the building located furthest to the south, which is being remodeled as part of the project. Two additional buildings - one housing faculty offices and another housing classrooms and laboratories - are under construction. Burke and Associates is the general contractor on the $19.7 million project.